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A BRIEF REPORT

MADE TO THE

RIGHT REV. B. B. SMITH, D.D.,

PRESIDING BISHOP OF THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE
UNITED STATES,

BY

LEWIS P. W. BALCH, D.D.,

LATE SENIOR CANON OF CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, MONTREAL, CANADA, AND
LATE SECRETARY OF THE SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE.

TOGETHER WITH COPIES OF

Testimonials and Addresses,

BY

THE DEAN, CANONS, CLERGY AND LAITY

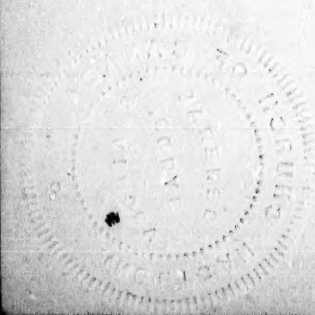
OF THE

CATHEDRAL, AND DIOCESE OF MONTREAL.

Montreal:

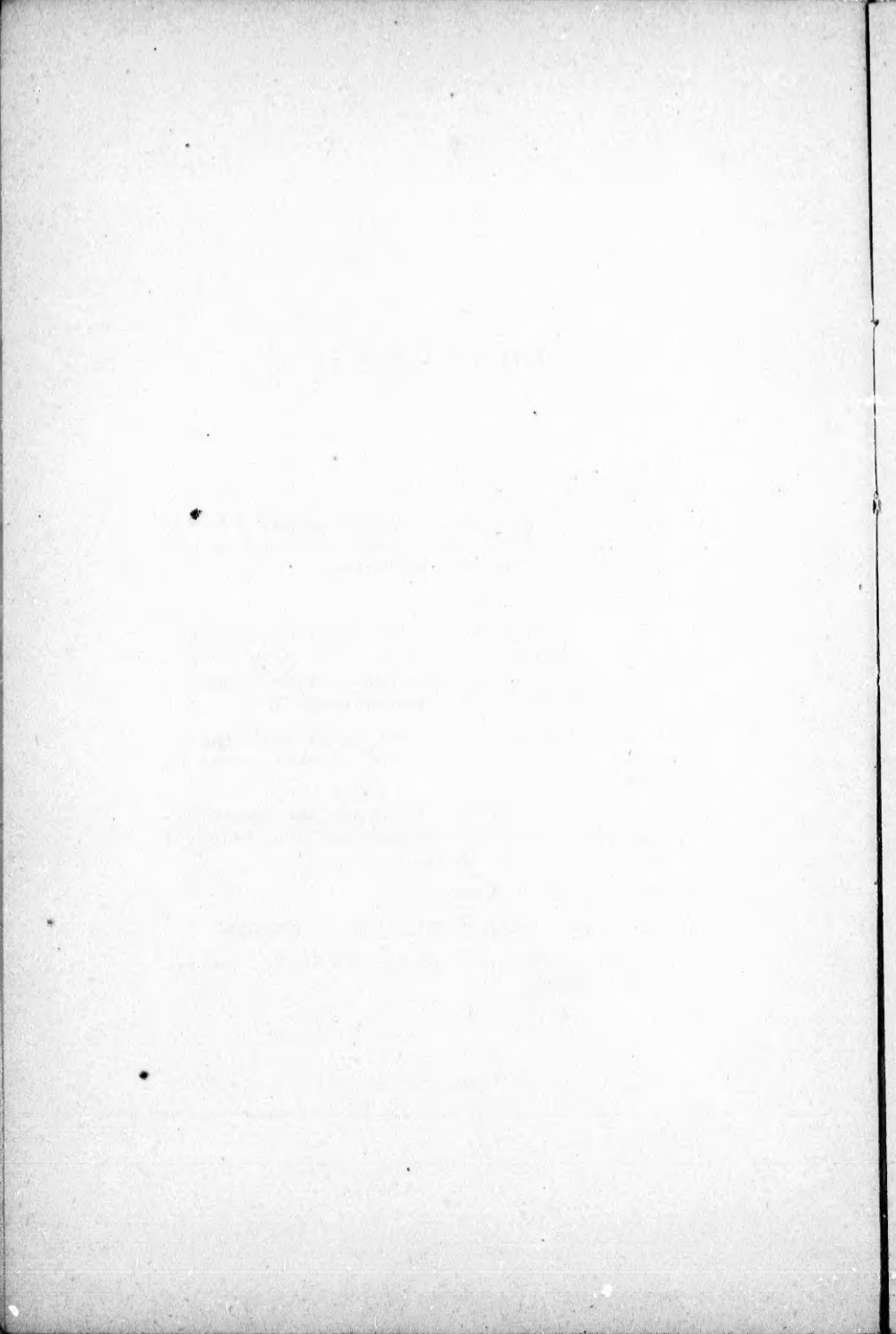
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REPORT

TO THE

RIGHT REVEREND B. B. SMITH, D.D.,

BISHOP OF KENTUCKY, AND PRESIDING BISHOP OF THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL
CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES.

RIGHT REVEREND AND DEAR SIR,

After the consecration of the late Bishop Wainwright, the House of Bishops elected me, in 1853, to succeed Bishop Wainwright in the office of Secretary of the House of Bishops. By successive re-elections I held the office until 1866.

In that year, after repeated written request, as well as by personal solicitation, the late Bishop Fulford, Lord Bishop of Montreal and Metropolitan of Canada, prevailed on me to accept the appointment of Assistant Minister of the Cathedral, tendered by the Very Rev. John Bethune, D.D., Dean of Montreal, and, at the same time, the Bishop tendered me the appointments of Canon of the Cathedral and Domestic Chaplain.

I was contented with the post of Rector of St. Michael's Church, Bristol, R. I., and did not wish to leave my country. But the late Bishop Hopkins, of Vermont, and other American Bishops, considering that this was the first time a Clergyman ordained by the American Episcopate had been invited by the Ecclesiastical authorities of the Church of England in the Colonies, to enter her jurisdiction, and knowing from Bishop Fulford's speech at the General Convention in the United States, in October, 1865, how much he had at heart the removal of all disabilities to a practical union of the two branches of the Church on this continent, and that the late Duke of Newcastle had procured the passage of Imperial and Provincial Acts of Parliament to facilitate the same, advised me to

resign the Rectorship at Bristol, and accept the post of Assistant Minister and Canon of the Cathedral, Montreal, which I did, June 1, 1866.

I found the Cathedral encumbered with debt. The part which I took in its liquidation can best be learned from the Address, signed by the Rector, Wardens and Members of the Cathedral congregation, printed herewith, page 12.

I will not trouble you with a detail of duties discharged in the Cathedral, and in the Diocese, but will barely refer to one of them.

The Incorporated Church Society of the Diocese, charged with the care and maintenance of its Missions, unanimously elected me Secretary in 1867.

Subsequently, when the Church Society was merged into the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese, I was again unanimously elected Secretary of the same, and held the office, discharging the duties pertaining to both, until June, 1870. And at that time the Treasurer reported the Diocese out of debt and a small balance in the treasury.

At the meeting of the Executive Committee, held August 12, 1868, letters were read from the Dean and Wardens of the Cathedral, stating that, in their opinion, the duties of Secretary were incompatible with those of the Cathedral. I therefore resigned the office of Secretary. But Bishop Fulford himself wrote, and the Committee adopted a resolution, requesting me to hold the office until November following. Before November that wise and faithful Bishop died. By law, I could not be released from the duties of the office until June, 1870.

In November, 1869, I sent my resignation to the Dean, which was declined. In December following, I convened the Wardens of the Cathedral, ex-Wardens, Chancellor of the Diocese and a distinguished member of the Synod, and submitted to them my reasons for wishing to be released from connection with this diocese. Those reasons were over-

ruled. But after the Synod of June, 1870, those same gentlemen acknowledged the force of the reasons previously assigned in December, and reluctantly withdrew their opposition to my resignation. The venerable Dean finally gave his consent and accepted my resignation, and expressed sentiments of regret, which bound me to him more closely than ever; Bishop Oxenden promptly gave a letter dimissory to the Bishop of Maryland, in whose Diocese I have since accepted the Rectorship of the Church of the Ascension, Baltimore. *

In consequence of previous official relations to the House of Bishops of the United States, and from the peculiar circumstances under which I became Canon of Christ Church Cathedral, in the Metropolitan Diocese of Montreal, I was placed in a position where, without assuming any representative character, unworthy or unfaithful conduct on my part would have reflected discredit on that Venerable and Right Reverend House, which, for so many years, honoured me with its confidence; therefore, it is due to you, Right Reverend and dear Sir, and it is only respectful to the House of which you are now the President, to make this brief report, "as to my manner of life," since I left the jurisdiction of the Church in the United States, up to the time of my return to the same. And for this purpose I beg to submit for your inspection, and that of the Bishops, Clergy and Laity of the Church, who feel any interest in the matter, the documents herewith printed.

I am, Right Reverend and dear Sir,

With great respect,

Your friend and servant,

LEWIS P. W. BALCH.

Montreal, February, 1871.

* A new Church heavily encumbered with debt, and its property threatened with alienation. The brave little band of Churchmen who have clung to it in its dark days, made such an appeal, that I felt bound, depending on God's blessing, to *try* and save the Parish from extinction, and to enlarge and render permanent its usefulness.

II.

TO THE REVEREND LEWIS P. W. BALCH, D.D.

REVEREND AND DEAR SIR,—Your resignation of the office of Senior Canon and Assistant Minister in Christ Church Cathedral of this city, and your intended departure from Canada, causes deep regret, and lead us to approach you respectfully and to express publicly our feelings of regard for yourself and family, as well as our own appreciation of your action in coming among us, of your life and labour here, and of our sorrow that any thing should have occurred to induce you to leave us.

That the unity of the great Christian Brotherhood knows no political boundaries has been exemplified by your ministerial labours in Canada; your presence has been a bright and pleasing evidence of that link of union between the Christian Church of your native land and of our own, and, while making your presence doubly welcome, will add to our sorrow at your departure.

During the four years and a half of your ministry in Canada you have striven, and we believe successfully, to advance the cause of Him whom you serve so zealously, and so well; your labours as a pastor, as well as in the cause of Missions and of education, have been so constant, so arduous and so able, that we cannot fail to bear testimony to them, nor can we ignore the spirit of self-sacrifice and duty which you have exhibited in your care for, and conduct towards others; the sick, the faint, the needy, will feel the loss of your sympathy and aid; the strong and the zealous, the want of your counsel and encouragement. These characteristics have distinguished you as a brave soldier of Christ and chivalrous gentleman.

Our sorrow at your approaching departure is softened by the hope that the Church in your native land will profit by our irreparable loss, and will know how to mark her appreciation of a servant who has so nobly fulfilled his

mission, and that Christian unity will be strengthened and cemented by your alternate labours between two friendly peoples, holding the same great principles of faith and freedom, and learning from one Divine Master, lessons of peace and good will.

To Mrs. Balch and to your family, who have endeared themselves to us all, by their blameless lives, and their abundant social and Christian virtues, we desire to express our deep sentiments of affectionate regard.

In parting from you all we can only say: Farewell, may God bless you.

Montreal, February 14th, 1871.

Signed by the Chancellor of the Diocese, the Wardens of the Cathedral, and one hundred and seventy-three Laymen, besides those who signed the Testimonial.

III.

REPLY.

GENTLEMEN,—I gratefully accept the Address which you have this day presented, and I thank you for the generous gift which accompanies it.

The Address and Testimonial are numerously signed by well-known names representing the Cathedral congregation, and I observe, also, that I have been honoured by the signatures of some of my fellow-citizens belonging to other churches beside the Church of England, as well as by those of esteemed friends residing in distant parts of the Diocese.

It adds to the pleasure with which I receive such an Address, to believe that it will be appreciated by the Venerable and Right Reverend House of Bishops of the United States, of which House I was Secretary for many years; and that your sentiments in that Address will gratify many of the Clergy and Laity of the Republic.

At the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States, held at Philadelphia, October, 1865, the late Bishop Fulford was an honoured guest. He

preached the sermon at the opening of the Convention, and was treated with all the hospitality due his personal excellence and his official dignity.

In his speech to the House of Bishops, as may be seen by reference to the published journal, he recited with evident pleasure the successful efforts of the late Duke of Newcastle in the Imperial Parliament and his own in Canada, to remove all disabilities to the transfer of Clergymen from the States to Canada.

It was at that time that he first pressed me to remove with my family to Montreal, and it was a gratifying mark of confidence, that one so wise, after much personal intimacy, should choose me to inaugurate his cherished plan for the closer union of the sister churches.

The noble Society for the Propagation of the Gospel fostered the Church in the thirteen colonies. After they achieved independence, liberal gifts of Englishmen, and diligent labour in the States by English Clergymen, proved to the world that Mother and Daughter were still one.

Most humbly shall I thank God if the little that He has permitted me to do in Canada during the last four and a half years, shall, by His blessing, strengthen the union and sympathy between the sister churches on this continent, and prepare the way for its ultimate completion by some better instrument than myself.

I will not trouble you with further details on this subject now—at a future time I may publish some observations on the Missions, Canon Law, and Synodical Action of the Diocese of Montreal; but your address soars far above and far beyond the concerns of any individual person, and lays hold on the best interests of all men. The work of Missions is one of those subjects. Missions are the life of the Church, the salvation of the world, and the practical bringing in of the Kingdom of Peace and Love. Christian education or the symmetrical and healthy development of God's spiritual and intellectual gifts to man is another.

The unity of the Church is another, and as a logical result from these, one which fronts as now, and always presses with intense reality and power, viz., amicable relations between "two friendly peoples holding the same great principles of faith and freedom, and learning from one Divine Master lessons of peace and good will."

No thoughtful man can look at the vast extent and future destiny of British North America, and that of the Republic alongside of her, without deep solicitude. A man who can speak flippantly or think lightly of either commits a crime against humanity. Twice during the last five years angry feelings have been excited, and warlike preparations threatened the peaceful relations of the two countries.

But good tidings have just been borne to us from across the waters. The ruler of the British Empire has stepped forward with the dignity of a Queen and the grace of a woman, and won for herself the love and admiration of both nations, by inaugurating measures intended to avert war, by removing all cause for irritation and conflict.

That her Majesty will be met in a correspondingly wise and conciliatory spirit by the gallant soldier at the head of the American Government, no man can doubt.

But every upright and loyal citizen in British North America and the United States has a direct personal interest and duty in these international questions.

Your individual and united efforts, gentlemen, in your respective spheres, must greatly promote peace, because you have affirmed as your own that grand sentiment, "The unity of the great Christian Brotherhood knows no political boundaries," a sentiment worthy of being engraved on steel, better still, it is worthy of being engraved on the living heart of man's belief.

Again permit me to thank you for the Address and Testimonial.

Your kind allusion to my wife and family moves deeply a husband and a father's heart. Be assured, my friends, that

we shall return to our native land your debtors for life. The door of our future home is always open to our Canadian friends, whilst at our family altar we shall ever pray may God reward you for all your kindness.

Your friend and servant,

LEWIS P. W. BALCH.

Montreal, Feb. 14, 1871.

IV.

TO THE REV. LEWIS P. W. BALCH, D.D.,

CANON OF CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, MONTREAL.

REV. AND VERY DEAR SIR,—We, the undersigned members of the congregation of Christ Church Cathedral, beg your acceptance of the accompanying Epergne, as a token of our appreciation of your valuable advice, assistance and liberal contribution towards relieving the Church of a debt of \$12,567 that crippled its usefulness and disheartened its best friends; such would, in our opinion, still have remained had it not been for your timely and successful exertions.

That the debt is now provided for we most gratefully acknowledge to be owing to the earnest appeal made by you from our pulpit, and which was afterwards liberally and cordially supported by yourself and others.

Wishing you, Mrs. Balch, and family every temporal and spiritual blessing,

We are, Rev. and very dear Sir,

Your faithful friends,

Montreal, June 18, 1867.

Signed by the Very Reverend the Dean and Rector, the Wardens, and one hundred members of the Cathedral Congregation.

TO THE REV. CANON BALCH, D.D.,

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, MONTREAL.

REV. AND DEAR SIR, — We, the undersigned members of the Cathedral congregation, avail ourselves of the season of the "New Year" to offer to you the present address of respect, coupled with our best wishes for the spiritual and temporal welfare of yourself and family.

It is now almost three years since you left a high position in the Sister Church of the United States of America to come among us as Minister of the Gospel at the earnest solicitation of a large and influential portion of the congregation (acting with the concurrence of our late beloved Metropolitan, under the sanction of the very Rev. the Dean of Montreal.)

During this time we have felt the advantages of your earnest and judicious labours in the cause of our Divine Master, in your able and eloquent ministrations in the Church, in the visitation of the sick, in the care of the poor, and in the material aid rendered to us in the management of the temporal affairs of the Cathedral.

We have noticed the zeal with which you are now striving to place our *Church Missions* on a permanent and efficient basis, as well as to establish a thorough and inexpensive system of female education in connexion with the Church, and we feel that we should fail in our duty to the cause of religion, to yourself, and to ourselves, were we to omit now to encourage you in your noble efforts by the expression of our earnest wishes for your success, the tender of our aid, and chiefly in our prayers to God that He may bless your efforts with success, and may spare you to us as a spiritual guide and wise master laborer.

Montreal, January 25, 1869.

Signed by the Dean, Canons Anderson, Bancroft and Bond, and one hundred and twenty-five Churchmen.

VI.

TO THE REV. LEWIS P. W. BALCH, D.D.,

REV. AND DEAR SIR,—We, the undersigned Clergy of the Deaneries of Bedford and Iberville, having heard of your resignation of the position of Senior Canon of Christ Church Cathedral, and your early departure from among us, feel that we cannot permit you to leave the Diocese without expressing our high appreciation of the zeal you have displayed in the cause of Missions. Your addresses at the meetings in our Parishes have been attended with the most beneficial results, and called forth on the part of our people a more earnest consideration of that important work in our Church.

We cannot forget that to you we are mainly indebted for the inauguration of the Scripture system of weekly offerings,

and that whatever success attended its adoption is owing, under the blessing of God, to your earnest, eloquent and moving appeals. We trust that these results of your labours, and many others which might be mentioned, will cheer and encourage you in that new field of labour to which the Providence of Almighty God has called you.

Praying that His blessing may at all times attend and follow you, we beg leave to subscribe ourselves as your sincere friends and well-wishers.

(Signed,)

M. TOWNSEND, M.A., Rector of Clarenceville, and
Hon. Canon.

E. DU VERNET, M.A., Assistant Minister of Clarenceville, Rural Dean and Hon. Canon.

DAVID LINDSAY, M.A., Incumbent of Waterloo.

H. F. DARNELL, Rector of St. Johns.

ROBERT LINDSAY, M.A., Incumbent of Knowlton.

WILLIAM JONES, Incumbent of Granby.

JAMES JONES, Granby.

J. C. DAVIDSON, Incumbent of Cowansville.

H. MONTGOMERIE, Rector of Phillipsburgh.
 THOMAS GODDEN, M.A., Incumbent of Milton.
 C. BELL, Incumbent of Potton.
 L. C. WURTELE, M.A., Incumbent of Upton.
 N. J. EVANS, B.A., Incumbent of Christievile.
 E. J. SUTTON, M.A., Incumbent of Edwardstown.
 E. FULTON, M.A., Incumbent of Havelock and Franklin.
 B. P. LEWIS, M.A., Principal of Sabrevois College.
 E. ROY, Sabrevois College.
 W. H. NYE, B.A., Boscobel.
 R. D. MILLS, B.A., Assistant Minister, Knowlton.

January 10, 1871.

To this the Reverend Dr. BALCH sent the following reply :

VII.

BELoved BRETHREN,—The Address which you have done me the honour to present, is gratefully accepted.

To be commended by those whom we respect and love, is one of the highest earthly rewards, and the only drawback to its full enjoyment is the depressing consciousness we feel, because our conceptions of that discharge of duty which has elicited commendation, are so different from those which our kind friends entertain.

I can never forget your affectionate hospitality, and that of your parishioners, when, as Secretary of the Church Society and of the Synod, in 1867, and in 1868, I visited the Deaneries of Iberville and Bedford, and I also retain a lively recollection of your active sympathy and ready help in the blessed cause of Missions, without which no effort of mine could have accomplished the good results to which you refer.

The first signature to the Address is that of the late venerable Rector of Clarenceville—after a long life of faith and good works he has departed in the assured hope of a resurrection to eternal life.

Let us remember that the places which know us now shall soon know us no more forever ; and let us be faithful, for the Master will come quickly, and bring His reward with Him.

God bless each and all of you, dear Brethren, and that His Holy Spirit may bring your labours to good effect in your respective parishes is the fervent prayer of

Your friend and brother,

LEWIS P. W. BALCH.

January 10, 1871.

VIII.

Many most welcome and acceptable private letters have been received both from the City and the Country.

I publish, with the consent of their authors, two letters which may be regarded as of an official character :

MAYOR'S OFFICE, CITY HALL,

MONTREAL, Feb. 15, 1871.

MY DEAR DOCTOR BALCH,

It was my intention to have joined the deputation who waited upon you yesterday with an address and presentation upon the occasion of your leaving, but a public engagement in connection with my official duties prevented me.

I cannot see you this morning, and I therefore adopt this mode of conveying to you my deep regret that you should have permitted the contemptible small annoyances which I know you had to meet occasionally, to induce you to leave us. In my position as Chief Magistrate I have large opportunity of learning the sentiments of the people, and I can assure

you they *all* feel that they are about to suffer a great loss in your departure. Now that you really *have* decided upon leaving us, let me assure you that you carry along with you the most sincere wishes of the best people here, and my own, for your future happiness and peace, and that in this community there never was an Episcopal Clergyman more largely beloved and esteemed.

Believe me, my dear Sir,

Most respectfully yours,

WILLIAM WORKMAN,

Mayor.

IX.

MONTREAL, March 15, 1871.

MY DEAR DOCTOR BALCH,

I cannot part with you without expressing, once more, on the eve of your departure, my extreme regret on this occasion. I have always been entirely satisfied with the manner in which you have discharged your duties as Assistant Minister in the Cathedral. I have always found you, moreover, to be a highly valued friend whom I could always consult with perfect confidence and reliance on the value of your counsel. May God bless and prosper you in your new and important sphere of labour.

Faithfully yours ever,

JOHN BETHUNE,

Rector and Dean of Montreal.